

I do believe that when we know better, we do better. I have made it my mission to call out discrimination when I see or hear it. I will always link arms with those being targeted and stand up for them when they are scared to do it alone.

I would like diversity and inclusion training to be added to our curriculum. We won't always attend school in this district, in this "bubble." We need to be prepared to become global citizens. We need to be prepared and empowered to stand up and link arms.

IN RECOGNITION OF ILLINOIS' BICENTENNIAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow Illinoisans in celebrating 200 years of being the Land of Lincoln, the Prairie State, the heart of the Midwest, and the true microcosm of America.

With our varied landscape and diverse population, our location in the dead center of the country, and our historical significance, Illinois is home to the hard-working and the kind-hearted. On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state admitted to the Union.

Today, Illinois is the fifth most populated state in the country and the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery. Our proud state leads the nation in agriculture, manufacturing, specialized license plates, and is home to superheroes. Yes, we boast about having the highest number of personalized license plates produced in the country, and the home of Superman really exists in Southern Illinois. We are home to the beloved 2016 World Series Champions, the Chicago Cubs, and the recently beleaguered but still beloved, Chicago Bears.

U.S. Presidents Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, and Obama all lived in Illinois. In fact, Ronald Reagan's boyhood home of Dixon is located in the district I represent. Illinois' 16th Congressional District is also home to the First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, which took place on August 21, 1858 in downtown Ottawa's Washington Square.

We're proud to celebrate this rich history, fortunate to call Illinois home, and honored to serve our communities here in Congress. As we kick off this bicentennial celebration of our Great Pumpkin State, we have a lot to be proud of and a lot of history to look back on.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand here to wish Illinois a very happy birthday and a wonderful bicentennial celebration all year long. Here's to our state sovereignty and national union.

HONORING ANDRE LACY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Andre Lacy, who passed away this week on a trip in Botswana, Africa at the age of 78.

Andre was a well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist throughout Indiana and the na-

tion. He served as Chairman of the LDI, Ltd. Board, a family business which evolved over the years into a successful business innovation solutions firm. With his business expertise, Andre devoted his time to Butler's Business Accelerator program by mentoring students and graciously donated to Butler's business school to promote their continued success. Throughout his life, Andre made a profound impact on countless Hoosiers by providing his guidance to many boards, commissions, and civic organizations.

On a personal note, Andre Lacy was my friend. He was a strong leader and a straight shooter that you could count on to be candid with you. Andre will be mourned most by those who knew him best, and he will be missed by all.

REMEMBERING HAROLD WEBB

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Harold Webb—Tuskegee Airman, North Carolina Director of Personnel, Wake County Commissioner—one of North Carolina's most distinguished leaders. Harold died this past Friday at the age of 92 after a lifetime of devoted public service. My wife Lisa and I extend our condolences to his wife Lucille, their family, and all Harold's extensive network of colleagues and friends as we express gratitude for his extraordinary life.

Born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, Harold attended public schools in Guilford County. Upon graduation, he served as a pilot with WWII's legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American unit to fly and maintain American combat aircraft. His unit received a Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 for its military achievements and was instrumental in paving the way for full integration of the Armed Forces. As the Raleigh News & Observer editorialized yesterday, "Webb was proud to be a member of the Greatest Generation, and it may fairly be said that he was among those who made it the greatest."

After the war, Harold received a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Masters Degree in Education from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. He then became a teacher and principal in Orange County Schools and served in a variety of state-level education positions, including administrator of Chapter I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in North Carolina schools.

In 1977, Harold was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to be Director of State Personnel, the first African-American to serve in this position. He then served on the Wake County Board of Commissioners from 2003 to 2010, and was Chairman from 2008 to 2009.

Harold Webb's board service included The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, Shaw University Board of Trustees, Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees, Wake County Planning Board, and the National Association of State Personnel Executives. He received an honorary doctorate from NC A&T University and, with Lucille, was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame in 2011. Harold was a faithful member

of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, where he held numerous leadership positions.

Harold Webb made life in Raleigh and North Carolina better for all of our citizens. I and many others valued him as a friend, collaborator, and colleague: a man you wanted on your team. He was a leader who got things done but was quick to share the credit, a kind and generous man skilled at bringing people together, and a great source of encouragement and inspiration. We join with Harold's family, his many friends and admirers, and members of the communities he served, in mourning his passing and honoring his exemplary life of leadership and public service.

TESTIMONY OF ASHTON NOONAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Ashton Noonan.

Hello, my name is Ashton Noonan, I'm 13 years old and I'm transgender.

Throughout my life I always felt and said I was a girl. I loved Ariel and Wonder Woman; not Batman and Superman. People would make fun of me on the playground, or ask why I wanted to be a girl, but to me it just felt right.

Every year I got older, I felt more and more uncomfortable in my own skin. I couldn't look on the outside like who I felt I was on the inside. That was always very confusing, because why not? After all, this is MY identity.

The world is changing, and with your help we can change the perception people have of the whole LGBTQ community, but especially LGBTQ youth. WE need a safe space where we can be supported, loved and accepted. We can and need to make ALL schools that safe space for ALL children. We need YOUR support to model for everyone else in the world what it is to love and accept others for who they are. We could all live every day for better or for worse, but together we can thrive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 18, 2017, I was unfortunately not present for roll call votes 685 through 687. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 685 on the motion to fix the convening time; Yea on roll call vote 686 on passage of the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act (H.R. 4375); and Yea on roll call vote 687 on passage of the Keep America's Refuges Operation Act (H.R. 3979).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I missed

rollcall vote No. 685, No. 686, and No. 687 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay, Yea, and Yea, respectively.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for Roll Call votes 685, 686, and 687 on Monday, December 18, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call vote 685 and "Yea" on 686 and 687.

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET ZHENG

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Margaret Zheng.

As a Chinese American, I may be hurt by affirmative action, but as a citizen of the global 21st century, I also feel that diverse representation in work and education is necessary to foster a sense of unity underlying diversity.

From this apparent contradiction of feelings, I have concluded that just like how it's difficult to cure advanced-stage cancer, we can't solve discrimination only after harm is done. Rather, we must treat the sickness of hate early on.

In school, we rarely study social minorities except as victims of history, omitting the positive, active roles that females, Muslims, Chinese, LGBTQ+ persons, etc. have had in culture and innovation. Liberal/Democrat students and conservative/Republican students tease and even taunt each other in school, and as a political independent, I often feel swallowed up in tribalized politics, afraid to be labeled a heartless conservative or naïve liberal.

The lack of discussion of socially and politically diverse perspectives in school perpetuates prejudice and endangers individuality, upon which value America was founded. That combined with the inequitable funding of schools and the billions of dollars wasted in high-stakes assessments that label rather than help struggling schools is what caused the need for affirmative action in the first place.

Educate us holistically, on citizenship and collaboration and empathy, and we will not only have diversity, but also a nation thriving.

REMEMBERING JAMES THOMAS "JIM" BEVIS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Jim Bevis, a friend

and constituent from Mississippi's Fourth District.

Jim grew up, just down the beach from Mississippi, in Pensacola, Florida. He attended the University of West Florida earning a degree in banking and finance. In 1980, Jim launched what would become a longstanding career in finance and budget analysis at NASA Headquarters (Washington, D.C.), in the Budget Operations Division. Later, he spent a year at Goddard Space Flight Center, in Greenbelt, Maryland. Over the next decade, Jim's career would soar to new heights as a budget analyst responsible for the Office of Space Science programs, then as the lead analyst for the Comptroller for all of NASA's space science programs, with a budget of nearly \$1.5 billion. From 1993 to 95, Jim served as a special assistant to the Chief Scientist at NASA, managing budget analyses for a variety of agency topics—Earth, space, microgravity, and life sciences.

Thankfully, Jim's success landed him a position at Mississippi's Stennis Space Center where, in 2002, he was named Chief Financial Officer. He was still serving in that position at the time of his unexpected death in November.

Jim earned numerous awards for his excellent performance and dedicated service to the NASA and Stennis communities. One especially memorable one, unique to our Gulf Coast, was the NASA Commendation Award for Hurricane Katrina Recovery.

Jim carried with him a passion for exceptional work and a rock solid commitment to serving well in his career at NASA. His full comprehension of the public's trust, as Chief Financial Officer, drew the respect and appreciation of NASA's leadership.

Regrettably, Jim's life was cut short just days before his 62nd birthday. I also wish to honor his sons, Nolan & Nicholas today, along with their mother, Sherri Carr Bevis, who is also a public servant and Gulf Coast friend.

Jim enjoyed playing tennis and strumming Beatles tunes on his guitar. He was also deeply involved in his beloved Jacob's Well church family. The life that was Jim Bevis is greatly appreciated and will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL WILLIAM DAVID BARTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Colonel (COL) William David Barton's thirty-one years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG). COL Barton began his military career on August 13, 1986, when he enlisted as a Cannon Crewman in Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery in his hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi. He later received his commission through the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi, where he graduated with a degree in marketing in 1990.

COL Barton has served the MSARNG in staff positions at the battalion, brigade and state staff levels, and held command positions

at the platoon, company and battalion levels. In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq with the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) where he first served as Brigade Personnel Officer for the 155th BCT, and then served as the Battalion Operations Officer for 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery. He has held the position of Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel since February 1, 2015.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one Silver and three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the National Defense Service Medal (with one Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal (with two Campaign Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Gold Hourglass, M Device, and Numeral 2), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the National Guard Basic Recruiter Badge, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Magnolia Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Commendation Medal, the Mississippi War Medal (with one Star), the Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, the Mississippi Service School Ribbon (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Mississippi Longevity Medal (with one Silver and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Mississippi Recruiting Medal.

When asked about his years in the MSARNG, COL Barton said, "I have been blessed to serve with some of the finest people in the world over the last 31 years. It has been an amazing experience and I am glad to have been able to serve my country and my state in both peacetime and during war. The service members I have served with truly embody the National Guard motto of 'Always Ready, Always There' and I could not be more proud of my service alongside them."

Throughout his career and in preparation for his upcoming retirement, Colonel Barton has been supported by his loving family, including his parents, Gerald and Peggy Barton; his three sisters; his wife, Jennifer Barton; and his four daughters, Brittany Burnham, Ashley Smith, Kelly Barton and Hannah Kelly.

I am thankful for Colonel Barton's many years of military service, and I am proud to call him my friend. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes No. 685 through 687 due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on the motion to fix the convening time, "Yea" on H.R. 4375, STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and "Yes" on H.R. 3979, Keep Americas Refugees Operational Act.